

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Rural District of Whitchurch

For the Year 1921.

PORTSMOUTH :

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF WHITCHURCH,

For the Year ended December 31st, 1921.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1921, copies of which have been forwarded to the Ministry of Health, the Home Office and Hants County Council.

Area.

30·609 acres.

Population (1921), 6,411.

Number of inhabited houses (1921), 1,504.

Rateable value, £48,211.

Sum represented by a penny rate, about £200.

Registered Births.

		1920.	1921.
Whitchurch Division	...	77	61
Overton Division	...	41	47
St. Mary Bourne Division	...	27	27
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	145	135
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths.

		1920.	1921.
Whitchurch Division	...	30	43
Overton Division	...	21	18
St. Mary Bourne Division	...	11	8
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	62	69
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

	1920.	1921.
Whitchurch Division ...	7	8
Overton Division ...	3	4
St. Mary Bourne Division ...	1	3
	—	—
Total ...	11	15
	—	—

Deaths in Public Institutions within the District:

	1920.	1921.
Whitchurch Poor Law Institution Infirmary ...	6	6
Whitchurch Isolation Hospital	0	0
	—	—
Total ...	6	6
	—	—

Deaths in Public Institutions beyond the District:

	1920.	1921.
	13	16

Nett Death Rate for the Whole District:

	1920.	1921.
General (Nett) ...	11·8	13·1

Birth Rate (Nett) per 1,000 of the Population:

1920.	1921.
27·2	24·4

Illegitimate Births:

1920.	1921.
16	6

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS,
AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE
DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

A.—General.

A midwife, who also does a certain amount of nursing, is provided by the local Nursing Associations at Whitchurch, Overton, and St. Mary Bourne. This arrangement covers nearly the whole district.

The nurse in each case is paid for by voluntary contributions and fees from patients. The Board of Guardians gives an annual subscription.

B.—For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles, etc. :

No nurse is provided for infectious diseases outside the Infectious Hospital.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare:—

For Maternity—County Hospital, Winchester.

Child Welfare—In the various villages periodically.

Day Nurseries—Nil.

School Clinics—By Hants County Council.

Tuberculosis—Dispensaries at Andover and Basingstoke provided by Hants County Council.

Venereal Diseases—At Winchester County Hospital and at Basingstoke.

Hospitals

Provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council:—

1. Tuberculosis—None in the district. The Hants County Council sends cases to various Sanatoria in the County.

2. Maternity.—None in the district. By arrangement with the Hants County Council, cases are treated at County Hospital, Winchester.

3. Children—Nil.

4. Fever.—The Local Authority provides an Isolation Hospital about two miles north of Whitechurch. This is used for cases occurring in the district, and has twelve beds. Two diseases can be treated concurrently.

Any Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the district—Poor Law Institution, Whitechurch.

Ambulance facilities:

(a) For infectious cases.—An ambulance to take cases into the Infectious Hospital is provided by the Local Authority.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases.—No ambulance kept in the district. There is one at Winchester, but most cases are sent into Hospital in a motor car.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

One of the Inspectors of the Ministry of Health, Colonel A. B. Smallman, visited Whitchurch on August 12th, 1921, and together we examined the water supply of the Lynch and other parts of Whitchurch, and also various houses, etc. Later in the year, a report was received from the Ministry of Health, suggesting that a general water supply for Whitchurch was advisable, but the Council decided not to embark on any scheme. As I have mentioned before, I consider that a water supply and sewage scheme for Whitchurch are necessary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE GENERALLY.

In common with many other parts of the country, there was an outbreak of Diphtheria at and around Overton, which was the subject of a special report. In all, there were 38 cases in the Overton area, and one death. There were also 10 cases in the Whitchurch area—all of which recovered. The Schools at Overton, both Infants and Mixed, were visited, and the throats of the Children, 242 in all, swabbed.

All in the Infants' School were found to be negative.

All in the Girls' School were found to be negative.

Two in the Boys' School were found to be positive.

These cases of diphtheria were on the whole of a very mild character—there was hardly one admitted to Hospital who had any rise of temperature after admission, and those throats that had any secretion upon them, cleared up in a day or two. A large number of these cases had no symptom, clinically, of diphtheria, the presence of the

diphtheria bacillus as estimated by a positive swab being, in many cases, the only sign. Until some simple method is found of determining whether these bacilli are virulent or not, I suppose there will be no other course open to the general practitioner but to have these cases removed to hospital. I am perfectly certain that a very large number of the cases I treated in hospital and discharged after obtaining two negative swabs, would show positive swabs if examined periodically—most of the children had enlarged tonsils which shows what a farce it is to have school medical examination, and not the power to compel the patient to have enlarged tonsils removed. In some cases, after a fortnight or three weeks in hospital, I commenced to swab the throats and obtained alternate negative and positive swabs for several times—this in spite of throat painting and gargling.

It will be seen from Table II., that 35 of the cases of diphtheria occurred in patients under 15, the majority being at school.

Nearly all the cases were given full doses of serum previous to their coming into Hospital, in the majority of cases as soon as the disease was suspected.

A few of the cases worked at the same mill, which I visited and found to be in good order.

Several cases lived in or around a farm house outside Overton; the surroundings, when inspected, appeared to be good, also the water supply.

The dwellings of the other infected persons were inspected; the water supply was bad in one case, and this was remedied.

The sanitary surroundings were fair with three exceptions.

The sanitary arrangements at the Boys' School at Overton were bad and required improving.

One inmate, a youth, broke out of the Isolation Hospital, and went home; both he and his sister were prosecuted for exposing themselves whilst in an infectious condition, and fined £1 each.

A large number of contacts were swabbed with a view of finding out whether they were carriers or had the disease in a mild form.

The Isolation Hospital was opened in July and, with the exception of a few days, there were patients there till the end of the year, sometimes being quite full; in fact, a few cases could not be admitted as there was no accommodation for them.

One case of malaria occurred in an ex-service man. One case of scarlet fever occurred in a boy at St. Mary Bourne; he was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Influenza.

There were a number of cases of a mild type in January, February and March at Whitechurch, also a few cases in September.

Whooping Cough.

Some cases occurred at Overton in January.

Diarrhœa.

There were a number of cases at Whitechurch in August and September, but the number was not excessive considering the very hot summer.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

One case in a man occurred in Whitechurch. The chief symptoms were drowsiness, ptosis, and intense headache. He had not been feeling well for 7 to 10 days, but had not given up work till the day before he was first attended. Four days later he was removed to the County Hospital, Winchester.

The occupants of the house, four in number, had swabs taken of the throats and examined at the Laboratory, Winchester, for the meningococcus, but with negative results.

FOOD AND DRUG ACT.

During the year the following samples were analysed and found to be genuine:—

Arrowroot, 2.
 Butter, 3.
 Condensed Milk, 1.
 Demerara Sugar, 2.
 Lard, 1.
 Margarine, 1.
 Milk (separated), 1.
 New Milk, 6.

Two samples of new milk were found to be adulterated.

PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

A very large number of swabs of throats were sent to the County Laboratory at Winchester during the year.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Local Authority, and any Medical Practitioner in the district can obtain the same on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

No other sera or vaccines were provided.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

There are three slaughter-houses in the District, and these have been inspected and found to be in good order.

Disinfection is carried out by means of McDougal's Vap Lamps after cases of infectious illness and also after cases of cancer and tuberculosis (pulmonary).

The Cowsheds and Dairies have been inspected and the necessary limewashing, etc., carried out. On the whole these were found to be in a well-kept condition.

An open Scotch cart is still used to collect the dust, etc., from the roads. This, in dry weather, with a high wind, is the cause of much dust being blown about, often over food exposed for sale. I have repeatedly drawn attention to the need of providing a proper covered-in dust cart; two, in fact, are urgently needed.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Public Health Officers of the Council.—No whole-time officers.

The part time officers include the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

Various tables are shown at the end of this report, and my thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector for the help he has always willingly given me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. A. COATES,

Medical Officer of Health.

9. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	25
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...	...	12

I.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	Nil

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	6
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.	Nil
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	...	...	...
(a) by owners	...	...	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	...	...	...
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	...	...	...
(a) by owners	...	...	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil
C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.	...	...	...
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	Nil

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of the whole district during 1921 and previous years.

Whitchurch (Hants) Rural District.

Year	Population estimated to the middle of each year	BIRTHS.			Total Deaths Registered in the District		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncor- rected number	Nett		Number	Rate	Of non- residents registered in the district	Of residents not registered in the district	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1000 nett births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1916	6079	115	114	18·7	63	10·3	—	9	7	51·8	72	11·8
1917	6079	112	114	18·7	65	10·6	—	14	5	43·8	79	12·9
1918	6079	119	123	20·2	81	13·3	—	9	9	73·1	90	14·8
1919	6079	119	129	21·2	60	9·8	1	15	9	69·7	74	12·1
1920	6246	145	170	27·2	62	9·9	1	13	11	64·7	74	11·8
1921	6370	135	155	24·4	69	10·8	2	17	15	96·7	84	13·1

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—30,609.

Total population at all ages—6,370.

Number of inhabited houses—1,504.

Average number of persons per house—4·2.

TABLE III.

M. 13.

Causes of Death in Whitchurch (Hants Rural District, 1921.

Causes of Death					Males	Females
CIVILIANS ONLY.						
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	40	44
1	Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	...
2	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3	Measles	...	...	...	...	...
4	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	2
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
7	Influenza	...	...	...	2	2
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	4
10	Tuberculous meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	3	...
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	6	7
13	Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	1	...
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c....	...	...	...	1	1
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	6	9
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	2	...
18	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	3	1
20	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...
21	Appendicitis & typhlitis	...	...	...	1	...
22	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...
23	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	1	1
24	Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...
25	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy	...	...	...	...	...
26	Congenital debility, &c.	...	...	...	4	2
27	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...
28	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	2
29	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	10	7
30	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	1
Special causes (included above)						
	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age					9	6
Total					...	...
Illegitimate					...	1
TOTAL BIRTHS					74	81
Legitimate					74	75
Illegitimate					...	6

Population—(For births and deaths)—6,370.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1921.
Whitchurch (Hants) Rural District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY					Total cases removed to Hospital		
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Whitchurch	Over-ton	St. Mary-bourne				
Scarlet Fever ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Malaria ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous group) ...	48	1	2	32	9	3	1	...	10	38	...	...	35	...	...
Erysipelas ...	7	...	...	...	...	4	2	1	3	1	3	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	5	...	...	...	1	3	1	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	{ M 2 F 3 }	...	...	1	1	3	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	{ M 3 F 1 }	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis, Lethargica ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polioomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	72	1	3	35	13	15	3	2	27	41	4	...	37	...	...

Isolation Hospital—Whitchurch (Hants), provided by Rural District Council.

Total available Beds, 12.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1921.

Deaths from stated causes at various under one year of age.

Whitchurch (Hants) Rural District.

CAUSES OF DEATH			Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 months	Total : this under 1 year
ALL CAUSES	Certified	...	6	1	—	—	7	4	—	2	2	15
	Uncertified	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Intussusception	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Marasmus	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Pertussis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bronchitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Abscess	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Mastoiditis (acute)	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cause ill-defined	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	6	1	—	—	7	4	—	2	2	15

TABLE V.

v.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances'
Department during the year 1921.

Whitchurch (Hants) Rural District.

		Number of		Abatement Notices		Nuisances Abated after Notices by		Nuisance Remaining Unabated
		Inspections and Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority	
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{ Foul Conditions ...	12	10	2	..	10	..	..
	{ Structural Defects ...	2	2	2	..	..	..	..
	{ Over-crowding ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Unfit for Habitation	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Lodging-houses ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Dairies & Milkshops	18	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cowsheds...	18	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bakehouses ...	8	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Slaughter-houses ...	18	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Canal Boats ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ashpits and Privies	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Deposits of Refuse } and Manure }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Water-closets ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
House Drainage	{ Defective Traps ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ No Disconnection ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Other Faults ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Water Supply ...	20	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Pigsties ...	20	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Animals improperly } kept }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Offensive Trades ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smoke Nuisances ...		..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Nuisances ...		..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inspection of New Buildings ...		..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals		124	12	4	..	10	..	..

Complaints received	..	..	2
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	..	..	..
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	..	..	18
„ Condemned as Unfit for Use	..	..	..
„ „ found Adulterated	..	..	..
„ of Water taken for Analysis	..	..	..
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	..	..	66
Schools ditto ditto	..	..	..

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	..	..	..
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	..	..	..
Convictions ditto	..	ditto	..
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things	..	..	..
Convictions ditto	..	ditto	..

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

Is there any scarcity of houses—and where?—Whitchurch.
General Character?—

Any Town Planning Scheme contemplated?—In hand.

Who has been designated as the Inspecting Officer under Article II. of
the Housing Regulations, 1910?—W. J. Hiscox, Sanitary Inspector.

Are records submitted to L.A. at each meeting?—When necessary.

				Number.
Houses Inspected	...	...	...	45
SECTION 17—				
Dwelling-houses found unfit for human				
habitation	...	...	...	1
Representations made	...	...	...	1
Closing Order made	...	...	...	1
Houses made habitable without Closing				
Orders	...	...	...	...
Houses made habitable as result of Closing				
Orders	...	...	...	...
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...
Houses unfit but still occupied	...	...	...	1
SECTION 15—				
Defects reported	...	...	...	...
Defects remedied	...	...	...	...
Notices served	...	...	...	...

Rural District of Whitchurch, Hants.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1921 on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION :

Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	...	10
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	...	7
Total ...	...	17

2.—DEFECTS FOUND :

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts ...	...	<i>Nil</i>
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts ...	...	<i>Nil</i>

3.—HOME WORK—*Nil*.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS :

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year	9
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5.—OTHER MATTERS :

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	<i>Nil</i>
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